# News release

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## Three new developments announced at Farnborough Airshow 2002

22 July 2002

### Meteosat Second Generation (MSG) satellite programme

The Met Office is funding £120 million of the operating costs towards the Meteosat Second Generation (MSG) satellite programme, developed by the European Space Agency and operated by EUMETSAT. The first of three next-generation European weather satellites MSG-1 will be launched on 27 August 2002.

Volcanic ash can significantly disrupt aircraft engine performance so this improved data will be a welcome improvement to the aviation industry; MSG-1 will assist the work of the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres, of which the Met Office is one. The new satellite will give clearer, more-frequent images. These will be provided every 15 minutes, whereas previous images of this clarity were only available twice a day.

Peter Ewins, Chief Executive at the Met Office, says, "Satellites are an essential part of our observing network especially in areas where conventional observing sites are few and far between. Without them, our forecasts wouldn't be as accurate as they are today."

### Aviation Plus

The Met Office is demonstrating Aviation Plus, a new value-added service for the best en route weather guidance at stand F7, Hall 1 - Farnborough International Air Show, 22 - 29 July 2002.

Aviation Plus, a web subscription service, allows general aviation pilots access to a wider range of information, which includes better visualisation of en route weather.

The Aviation Plus service includes, 15-minute rainfall radar, lightning observations, animated cloud, precipitation and pressure forecasts, animated visibility forecasts and European forecast charts, visible and infrared satellite pictures, a jet-stream chart and three-day planning forecasts for England, Scotland and Wales.

A 30-day free trial for Aviation Plus is available from the Met Office on the web site if you register before 1 August 2002. A year's subscription will cost £56.40.

### Pilot training joint venture

The Met Office is working on a joint venture with the pilot training company Oxford Aviation Training (OAT) to develop a CD training package for pilots. The service, aimed at pilots, training schools and aviation enthusiasts, will be available on CD-Rom in October at a cost of £54.95 (inc VAT).

The programme will support pilots with all the information they require for the PPL, CPL and ATPL professional exams. It is compatible with the European Joint Aviation Authority (JAA) and the US FAA.

Free demonstration disks are available from the Met Office stand F7, Hall 1 at Farnborough International Air show 2002.

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